



Southern Connecticut
State University

Cheryl J. Norton, EdD., FACSM
President

February 17, 2009

Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Legislators:

I write to encourage your support for the growth of Tweed New Haven Airport. As a major center of education and commerce, New Haven has a critical need for an effective and well-developed system of transportation in and out of the city. A key component of this system is a regional airport. Undoubtedly, the economic growth of this area will be positively impacted by the opportunity for individuals to land at an airport only minutes away from the New Haven metropolitan area. This convenience will help to define the southern Connecticut region as a business-friendly location.

As an institution of higher education with students and parents visiting our campus or faculty and staff travelling outside of the state, a robust regional airport would provide another travel option to our crowded roadways and trains. Enhancing travel to and from a campus always adds a positive attribute to the college environment making the location more attractive.

To increase travel to the state of Connecticut and to increase business opportunities in New Haven, a robust regional airport would provide a welcoming "front porch" to the southern Connecticut area. I encourage you to work proactively towards the future development of this region by increasing access with the development of Tweed. It will not only have a long term benefit for New Haven, but for Connecticut as well.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Norton
President